

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 2, 6 – 8, 19 – 21, 26 – 28, 31 – 36, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,698,815 to *Ragner*. Claims 22 – 23, 29 – 30, and 37 – 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious in light of *Ragner*, U.S. Patent 6,999,295 to *Watkins*, and U.S. Patent 6,880,466 to *Carman*. Claims 24 – 25, 39, and 40 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the claims upon which they depend. The status of claim 3 is not given. The Examiner accepts the drawing.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested due to cancellation of the claims by Applicant. Applicant now chooses to pursue patent protection on the invention claimed in new claims 42-71. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 through 41 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 42 – 71 are added. No new matter is submitted. Applicant intends to first pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in an application claiming benefit of priority from application serial number 10/447,447 and may also pursue related subject matter in a continuation application claiming benefit of priority from the present application.

The Office Action mailed on November 30, 2006 was a first action on the merits. Applicant files with this response a Request for Continued Examination and authorizes payment of the required fees to avoid delay that could arise if the new claims presented here are deemed so different from the originally filed and cancelled claims as to require a new search.

Claims 42, 52, and 56 are independent.

Conclusion

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed

below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted.

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